

ward march to national unity led by the House of Savoy. To them, Turin's leaders were guilty of disloyalty, cowardice, and deficient patriotism, so they passed over this ignominious episode in near-silence. (Such a view is of course anachronistic, for it projects nineteenth- and twentieth-century nationalism back into the sixteenth century, when it had not yet begun to take form). Current research is revealing, however, that the French occupation was a period of decisive importance both for Turin and the Savoyard state, because of the cultural and institutional innovations it brought in its train.

Turin's adjustment to occupation proved difficult at first, in part because of the abrasive personality of the French military commander, the *Sieur de Montjehan*, but more particularly because war continued between the French and Spanish forces in Piedmont until 1538. Montjehan declared his contempt for the city's privileges and pressed the council for money to pay his troops; the council resisted his demands and dispatched envoys to his master, the king of France, pleading for fiscal redress and for reforms in the administration of justice. Francis I lent a ready ear to their requests. He was eager to conciliate his new subjects, because his ultimate aim was to annex Piedmont and integrate it into his kingdom. So in 1539 he established a French-style court of appeals, or *Parlement*, in the city, with jurisdiction over Piedmont, and a Chamber of Accounts to supervise the financial administration of the province. By doing so he created two institutions that the dukes of Savoy had never been willing to establish at Turin. After the French occupation ended the Chamber of Accounts and the *Parlement* would live on as central institutions of the Savoyard state.

Relations between the French crown and the citizens of Turin now entered a relatively harmonious phase, helped along by an interval of peace that lasted until 1551. The French administration began to consolidate its hold on Piedmont, and to integrate the province into the French monarchy. The governors who succeeded Montjehan were instructed to win popular sympathy by ensuring that their rule was fair and just. Although the taxation they imposed was higher than it had been under the dukes of Savoy, they won widespread approbation by improving the administration of justice, and by disciplining their troops very strictly – a novelty that attracted favorable comment. They also made it their policy to appoint Piedmontese officials to administrative positions. A symptom of the favorable attitudes French rule was engendering is provided by an incident in January 1543, when the citizens of Turin joined with the French garrison in repelling a surprise attack on the city by the Spanish. Too much meaning should not be read into